

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 25, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 10-19 and 24-30. By way of the foregoing amendments and the markings to show changes, Applicants have amended claims 10 and 24, canceled claim 15 and added new claims 31-34. The foregoing amendments are taken in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicant would otherwise be entitled in view of the prior art.

I. Spelling

The Office Action suggested that the word "bisphenol" was misspelled in claim 24. Claim 24 has been amended such that "bisphenol" is now properly spelled.

II. Rejections under 35 USC 112

The Office Action rejected claims 10-19 and 24-30 under 35 USC 112 suggesting that the term "Butyl Nitrile Rubber" be replaced with the term "Butadiene Nitrile Rubber" at page 3, line 32 of the specification and in claims 10 and 24. Without acquiescing in the rejection and to expedite prosecution, such changes have been made.

The Office Action suggested that the specification affirmatively disclose the presence of carboxyl groups at Page 4, line 11. Without acquiescing in the rejection and to expedite prosecution, Applicants have made changes to the specification to address this suggestion. Applicants note, however, that the present application is not limited to a particular reaction scheme unless specifically indicated by the claims.

The Office Action suggested changes to the language describing the epoxy component at page 2, line 32-33 of the specification. Changes have been made to this paragraph and are believe to address that suggestions of the Office Action.

III. Rejections under 35 USC 102/103

The Office Action rejected claims 10-19 and 24-30 under 35 USC 102 or 103 as being anticipated and/or obvious and unpatentable over several different references. Applicants have added language to at least claims 10 and 24 and believe

that the new language in combination with the other language of those claims distinguishes the references cited against the present application and renders the claims of the present application patentable along with their dependents. Applicants have additionally added new claims 31-34 with additional features that are believed to further distinguish the prior art.

By amending the application, the Applicants do not concede that the patent coverage available to them would not extend as far as the original claim. Rather, Applicants intend to file a continuation application to pursue the breadth of the claims as filed. Applicants believe that the Examiner has not made a sufficient showing of inherency of the teachings of the asserted prior art, especially given the lack of teachings in the cited references of the properties that Applicants have recited in their claims.

Further, by the present amendment, it does not follow that the amended claims have become so perfect in their description that no one could devise an equivalent. After amendment, as before, limitations in the ability to describe the present invention in language in the patent claims naturally prevent the Applicants from capturing every nuance of the invention or describing with complete precision the range of its novelty or every possible equivalent. See, Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 62 USPQ2d 1705 (2002). Accordingly, the foregoing amendments are made specifically in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicants would otherwise be entitled.

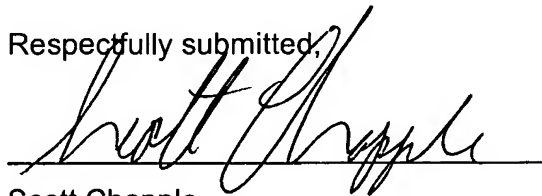
CONCLUSIONS

In view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (248) 292-2920.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1097 for any fee which may be due.

Dated: 25 August, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott Chapple", is written over a horizontal line.

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